

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR

1902,

BY

BERNARD STEDMAN,


M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SELBY :

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1903.



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SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 0 2 .

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report upon the state of the public health and sanitary condition of the Selby Rural District for the year 1902. The chief item of interest is the serious epidemic of diphtheria which occurred at Cawood in the earlier months of the year.

Population.		Area in acres.		No. of acres per person.
5,810	...	32,922	...	5·6

BIRTHS.

151 births have been registered. The birth-rate is thus 26 per thousand. This, (as will be seen from Table I. at the end of the report) although higher than last year, is slightly below the average.

DEATHS.

97 deaths have occurred in the district, and 2 persons belonging to the district have died in the Selby Workhouse. The death-rate for the year is 17 per thousand. The average rate for the last 7 years, and also the rate for 1901, was 15·6.

The increase this year might be supposed to be due to the deaths from diphtheria at Cawood, but on reference to Table II. it will be found that the increase is chiefly in the Carlton Sub-District, where a large number of old persons have died. Out of a total of 33 deaths in this district 20 were over sixty years of age.

Below is given the birth and death rates for the sub-districts, and also some of the larger parishes.

		Birth-rate.		Death-rate.
Whole District ...	...	26	...	17
Selby Rural Sub-District		25·5	...	16
Carlton	„	27	...	18
Cawood Parish ...	...	30	...	19
Carlton	„ ...	24	...	16
Wistow	„ ...	23	...	15

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths under 1 year of age to every thousand births. The rate this year is 106, and the average for the last seven is 127.

This small rate is due to the fact that diarrhoea was not prevalent during the summer, nor were there any epidemics of measles or whooping-cough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

44 cases of infectious disease have been notified, ten of which proved fatal. In addition to these there have been 2 deaths from diarrhoea, and 1 from whooping-cough. The zymotic death-rate is thus 2·2 per thousand. In 1901 this rate was 2.

SMALL-POX.

No cases of small-pox have occurred, although there have been several in immediately surrounding districts.

In view of the fact that cases have been constantly occurring in the West Riding during the greater part of the year, this Council

has combined with the Selby Urban, Tadcaster, and Pontefract District Councils in the erection of a Small-pox Hospital near Sherburn. The building is a galvanized iron structure, capable of holding 12 patients. In addition to the wards there is also accommodation for caretaker, nurses, and a laundry. An ambulance has been purchased for the use of the hospital.

VACCINATION.

Now that arm to arm vaccination has rightly fallen into disuse, and glycerinated calf-lymph only is employed, many of the objections formerly raised against it have disappeared.

The Royal Commission on the subject in 1896 concluded that the protection afforded by vaccination wears off in course of time, probably 10—15 years. Thus it is advisable that all persons over the age of 10 who have not had small-pox, or been re-vaccinated, should submit to this small operation.

One could not obtain better evidence in support of vaccination than the fact that not one of the staff of the London small-pox hospital ships has ever died of the disease, nor has any member suffered from it for many years.

SCARLET FEVER OR SCARLATINA.

13 cases have occurred, 10 being from Carlton. One terminated fatally.

There is every reason to believe that most of the Carlton cases arose from insufficient isolation.

As the infection in scarlet fever seldom lasts less than six weeks, even in mild cases, it is obvious that anything like sufficient protective measures are very seldom carried out in small houses. In one of the Carlton cases I noticed a neighbour coming from a room where a person was ill of the disease. Since the virus clings tenaciously to articles of clothing, it is evident that infection may easily be carried in this way. For these cases the Isolation Hospital, when erected, will prove a great boon.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

3 cases have occurred all from one house at Biggin ; 2 of the patients died.

Although this disease is not infectious to the same extent, or in the same way, as most of the other infectious diseases, yet epidemics have frequently been traced to water or food (especially milk), which have been contaminated from a previous case. When skilfully nursed these cases are less likely to spread.

It may be interesting to give a short account of the cases at Biggin. The first occurred at the end of 1901, the patient being a young man who was nursed by his mother. The mother commenced with typhoid in January, 1902. The husband now left work in order to nurse his wife, who died at the end of 5 weeks. Shortly after this the husband began with the disease, and another son, who until now had remained at work, undertook the nursing. The father died in about a fortnight, and the son commenced with the disease and eventually recovered. This history affords ample proof of the great care necessary in nursing these cases. Strict attention should be paid to thoroughly washing the hands after handling the patients, or any soiled linen which may have been in contact with them, otherwise the germs of the disease may get into food and so be carried into the system.

It is important to mention that the sanitary condition of the house at Biggin was quite satisfactory.

DIPHTHERIA.

26 cases have been notified, 1 from Wistow and the others from Cawood; 7 of the Cawood cases died.

These cases are the continuation of an epidemic which commenced in 1901. The earlier cases were from houses in close proximity to the landing-stage on the River Ouse, where at this time some especially offensive manure was left for several days, and to this the disease was attributed by the inhabitants of Cawood. The cases were mostly amongst school children. The schools were not closed, but children from infected houses were rigorously excluded. The epidemic ended at the beginning of April. The infection in diphtheria lasts much longer than is generally supposed. In mild cases medical attention often ceases at the end of about ten days, and the children then mix with others, and thus many cases arise from one that is supposed to have recovered. The great advantage of isolation of these cases in hospital is apparent.

The popular belief that inhaling foul gases is a common cause of the complaint is probably not correct, but it may cause a depressed state of health, or simple ulcerated throat, and thus render a person more susceptible to diphtheria.

The actual exciting cause is now believed to be a previous case which may possibly have been so mild as to be overlooked, or else regarded as a simple attack of sore throat.

The West Riding County Council now have a bacteriologist who will make an examination from any case in the Riding submitted to him by a medical officer of health or medical practitioner.

PHTHISIS OR CONSUMPTION.

6 deaths have occurred from phthisis, as compared with 13 in 1901. It resembles other infectious diseases in the fact that the cause of the complaint is a germ or microbe (tubercle bacillus), but differs from them in that recovery from one attack offers no protection against a second, but rather renders an individual more susceptible.

Sanitary authorities are now beginning to undertake measures for the prevention and cure cases of this disease, which is the cause of 40 per cent. of the deaths in England between the ages of 20 and 45.

The germs exist in enormous numbers in the sputum or phlegm. As long as this is moist there is comparatively little danger, but as soon as it dries the germs are scattered broadcast in the dust, and may convey the disease to other susceptible subjects by inhalation. The danger of spitting in railway carriages or other public places is thus manifest.

The means adopted at the present time for the cure of cases of consumption are (1) rest, (2) plenty of good food (especially of a fatty nature), (3) abundance of fresh air.

As these conditions are obviously impossible in the great majority of the houses of the working-class, consumption sanatoria are being erected in various parts of the country, and so far the results obtained in these institutions are distinctly encouraging.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Plans are being prepared for the erection of a Selby Urban and Rural Joint Isolation Hospital on a proposed site in the Urban District about 2 miles west of the centre of the town.

This has long been required, and had it been available during the early part of the year there is little doubt but that many of the diphtheria cases at Cawood would have been prevented. It is proposed to have accommodation for 20 patients. In addition to the wards provision will be made for caretaker, nurses, ambulance, disinfecter, and laundry.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

The general sanitary state of the district must be considered satisfactory. It is evident that many improvements have been carried out during the last few years. The County Medical Officer in his report suggests that public water supplies should be provided in the more populous villages, and also that public scavenging should be adopted in these places.

During the year 8 tube wells have been constructed, 5 being in the parish of Burn, 2 at Gateforth, and the remaining one at Brayton. I learn that in each case an excellent supply of water is obtainable. In the Gateforth parish the sanitary condition of several farms has been much improved, and at Gateforth Hall, which is now used as a sanatorium for cases of consumption, the whole of the sanitary arrangements have been remodelled.

Particulars of much other good work carried out during the year will be found in the Inspector's report.

COW-SHEDS.

As the germs of certain infectious diseases (especially typhoid fever) grow and multiply in milk, and as the cows themselves are liable to certain diseases that are communicable to human beings, it is an important duty of the sanitary authority to see that the conditions under which the cows are kept, and milk stored, are such as will, as far as possible, preclude infection arising from this source. The structural condition of most of the cow-sheds in the district is satisfactory, but more light is required in the majority. Accumulations of manure in the yards are not left in this as in many Rural Districts.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

By the provisions of the Factories and Workshops' Act of 1901 every District Council must keep a register of all workshops and workplaces in their district.

The Medical Officer of Health is required in his annual report to the Council to report specifically on the administration of the Act, and to send a copy of his report upon the subject to the Secretary of State. The report should specially deal with the provision as to sanitation, bakehouses, and homework.

By this Act important powers of controlling the conditions under which certain classes of work are done in the homes of the workers are given to the District Council. These powers aim at the prevention of homework being carried out :—

- (1) In dwellings which are injurious to the health of the workers themselves.
- (2) In premises where there is dangerous infectious disease.

The workshops and workplaces in this district come almost entirely under the heading of ‘domestic workshop,’ that is, only members of the same family dwelling there are employed. They are clean and well kept. Sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences are provided. No bakehouses are registered in the district. Lists of persons taking homework have been received, but in no case has it been necessary to take action under this heading during the year.

CANAL BOATS.

52 canal boats have been inspected. In one at Cawood a young man was found suffering from diphtheria. The boat was detained during his illness, and disinfected before being allowed to proceed. In another boat the cabin was found in a filthy condition, and was detained for cleansing and disinfection.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your courtesy to me, also to express my thanks to your Inspector, Mr. Braithwaite, for his valuable assistance and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

BERNARD STEDMAN,

M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years. Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.								Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.		Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in District.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.	At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	Number									
		Number.	Rate *		Number	Rate *				Number	Rate *	Number	Rate *						
1895	5950	166	27·8	20	126	103	17·2	5	..	5	108	18·0							
1896	5950	161	27·0	12	74	84	14·1	1	..	1	85	14·2							
1897	5950	159	26·7	19	120	78	13·1	2	2	2	78	13·1							
1898	5950	158	26·5	24	152	80	13·4	5	2	5	83	14·0							
1899	6000	161	26·8	30	186	82	13·6	5	2	5	85	14·1							
1900	6000	149	24·6	20	134	117	19·5	5	..	5	122	20·3							
1901	5822	144	24·7	17	118	86	14·7	..	..	5	91	15·6					
Averages for years 1895-1901	5946	157	26·4	20	127	90	15·1	3	1	4	93	15·6							
1902	5810	151	26·0	16	106	97	16·7	..	..	2	99	17·0					

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
exclusive of area
covered by water).

32,922.

Total population at all ages.....5822
Number of inhabited houses.....
Average number of persons per house...

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.

Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	SELBY RURAL.				CARLTON.			
YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	3689	101	63	13	2261	65	40	7
1896	3689	95	45	7	2261	66	39	5
1897	3689	101	48	11	2261	58	30	8
1898	3689	84	52	17	2261	64	28	7
1899	3776	107	59	22	2264	54	23	8
1900	3776	89	73	13	2224	60	53	7
1901	3617	91	66	14	2205	53	25	3
Averages of years 1895 to 1901	3701	96	57	14	2245	61	33	6
1902	3610	92	59	9	2200	59	40	7

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1902.
SELBY RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Selby Rural.	Carlton.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards		
Small-pox									
Cholera									
Diphtheria	26	1	11	11	1	2	..	26	
Membranous Croup									
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	
Scarlet Fever	13	..	2	9	1	1	..	1	12
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	
Relapsing Fever ..									
Continued Fever ..									
Puerperal Fever ..									
Plague									
Totals	44	1	13	20	3	6	1	32	12

No case was sent to any Hospital.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).	
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	Selby Rural	Carlton
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping-cough ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	7	..	5	2	..	..	..	7	..
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..
Enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	6	..	..	..	..	6	..	3	3
Other Tubercular } Diseases	4	2	..	1	1	..	..	2	2
Cancer, Malignant } Disease	9	..	..	..	..	2	7	2	7
Bronchitis	6	2	2	..	..	1	1	6	..
Pneumonia	7	1	1	1	..	3	1	3	4
Pleurisy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents } of Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	9	1	..	..	..	2	6	4	5
Accidents	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	2
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes ..	40	8	1	..	2	5	24	25	15
All causes	99	16	12	5	4	22	40	59	40

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

BERNARD STEDMAN, Medical Officer of Health.

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing Particulars of Sanitary Work for year ended December 31st, 1902.

BARLOW	38	Inspections Made.	
BIGIN	57	Notices served, Nuisances.	
BURN	91	Notices served, Water Supply	
BRAYTON	67	Old Wells dispensed with and New Bored Wells put down.	
CABLESFORTH	71	New Sewers laid by Sanitary Authority.	
CARLTON	298	Old Drains cleansed also New Drains laid by Private Owners	
CRAWOOD	342	Open Sewers cleansed by Sanitary Authority.	
DRAX	109	Pipe Sewers cleansed by Sanitary Authority.	
GATEFORTH	97	New Privies and Ashpits built	
HAMBLETON	245	Old Privies demolished.	
WEST HADDLESEY	50	New Urinals to Licensed Houses.	
CHAPEL HADDLESEY	52	Old Urinals demolished.	
LITTLE FENTON	42	New Brick Wells.	
HIRST COURTNEY	47	New Cesspools put down.	
TEMPLE HIRST	49	Cesspools Cleansed.	
NEWLAND	68	New Gullies Fixed.	
WISTOW	287	Dangerous Buildings closed.	
THORPE WILLOUGHBY	48	Rooms Disinfected.	
LONG DRAX	33	Privies converted into Box Closets.	
	2091	New Water Closets.	
	74	Canal Boats Inspected.	
	5	Workshops under Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901.	
	8	Inspections of New Buildings and Alterations to Old Buildings.	
	300	Number of Slaughter-houses.	
	1718	Inspections of Slaughter-houses.	
	29551	Notices to abate Nuisances not complied with.	
	720	Dairies and Cowsheds Registered.	
	20	Cowsheds where milk is not sold from.	
	19	Inspections to Cowsheds, Registered and Unregistered.	
	1		
	1		
	2		
	2		
	102		
	47		
	2		
	36		
	1		
	2		
	52		
	9		
	55		
	12		
	34		
	..		
	22		
	177		
	312		

THOMAS BRAITHWAITE, Sanitary Inspector.

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SELBY URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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1903.

SELBY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
UPON THE
Public Health and Sanitary Condition
FOR THE YEAR
1902.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report upon the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Selby Urban District for the year 1902.

The health of the district has been exceptionally good, the death-rate being the lowest for many years. The infantile mortality and zymotic death-rate have both also been considerably below the average.

POPULATION.

The population at the census in 1901 was 7,786. Since that time a large number of new houses have been erected and occupied, and an estimate of 8,200 will probably be not far from the correct number. This includes 140 inmates of the Workhouse.

The number of occupied houses is 1,779, and thus the average number of persons per house is 4·5.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.

237 births have been registered during the year. The birth-rate is 28·9 per thousand. This is practically the same as last year. The average for the past seven years is 30·2.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.

119 deaths have occurred in the district. Of these 7 were persons belonging to other places who died in the Workhouse. One death of a Selby inhabitant took place in the Asylum. After allowing for these the death-rate is 13·8 per thousand. This, as will be seen from Table I. at the end of the Report, is over 4 per thousand below the average.

This low rate is partly accounted for by the freedom from diarrhœa during the summer, but it also indicates a general healthy state of the district, as out of the 113 deaths only 28, or one quarter of the total number, were between the ages of 5 and 55.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infantile mortality is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every thousand births. For the year the rate is 122.

This small number, which is about 40 below the average for the last seven years, is doubtless largely due to the fact that diarrhœa has not been prevalent, nor have there been any serious epidemics of measles or whooping cough.

SENILE MORTALITY.

The number of persons dying over 65 is fairly high, which shews that a considerable proportion of the population live to old age.

As will be seen from Table IV. the number of deaths over 65 constitute about 30 per cent. of the total.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of cases of infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health is now compulsory throughout the country.

The notifiable diseases are small-pox, cholera, diphtheria and membranous croup, erysipelas, and scarlet, typhus, typhoid, relapsing, continued and puerperal fevers. A Sanitary Authority

may, with the consent of the Local Government Board, add to this list of infectious diseases (*e.g.*, chicken-pox or measles).

From zymotic diseases there have been 10 deaths. These were 1 from measles, 4 from whooping cough, 1 from croup, 2 from typhoid fever, 1 from influenza, and 1 from diarrhœa. The zymotic death-rate is thus 1·3 per thousand. In 1901 this rate was 2·3.

SMALL-POX.

Selby has so far escaped this disease, although it has been in surrounding districts.

In view of the fact that so many cases of small-pox have occurred in the West Riding during the year, this Council has combined with the Tadcaster and Pontefract District Councils in the erection of a small-pox hospital near Sherburn. This building, which is now practically completed, is a galvanized iron structure capable of holding 12 patients. In addition to the wards there is also accommodation for caretaker, and nurses, and a laundry.

An ambulance has been purchased for the use of the hospital.

Many of the cases of small-pox have spread by means of infection in workhouses and common lodging-houses. As the disease occasionally assumes so mild a form as to be unrecognisable, and in other cases is so severe as to prove fatal before the occurrence of the rash, it is obviously impossible to trace the source of every case.

The infection is given off (1) by the breath and skin, (2) by infected articles of clothing, (3) from the bodies of those who have died of the disease, (4) from the air surrounding small-pox hospitals.

VACCINATION.

Of all the protective measures against small-pox, this is by far the most important. To this must be attributed the great diminution in small-pox death-rate, which a century ago was the cause of about eight per cent. of the total deaths in London.

Since the introduction of glycerinated calf-lymph, instead of the old arm to arm vaccination, many of the objections to the operation have disappeared.

It is gratifying to find that in this district very little opposition is raised to vaccination.

The Royal Commission on the subject in 1896 concluded that the protection afforded by vaccination wears off in course of time,

probably 10—15 years, but that re-vaccination restores the protection. Thus it is advisable that all persons who have not had small-pox, or been re-vaccinated, should have it done.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Only three cases have been reported during the year. In one of these the disease was contracted abroad, the patient being taken ill on reaching Selby.

Several previous cases of typhoid in the town are believed to have been traced to drinking water from the river Ouse, and it is quite possible that one or both of the latter cases may have arisen in the same way, as one patient worked at the Shipbuilding Yard. Both these cases proved fatal.

SCARLET FEVER.

43 cases of this disease occurred during the year. In 1901 only 10 were notified. All the cases have been mild, none terminating fatally. The notifications have been received all through the year. At no time has the disease reached epidemic proportions.

It is difficult to impress upon people that scarlet fever is infectious from the commencement of the symptoms until peeling has ceased. As this period is seldom less than six weeks, it is obvious that satisfactory isolation cannot be carried out in the smaller class of houses. There is every reason to think that the greater number of cases this year have arisen from insufficient isolation after the acute stage has been passed.

The Infectious Hospital when completed will prove an immense benefit in these cases, for not only will the public gain by having a source of danger removed, but the patient will also benefit by being less restricted in an Infectious Hospital than if he were shut up in a small room for so long a period.

DIPHTHERIA.

Five cases have been notified, all of which recovered. The Council now keep a stock of antitoxin, which they supply free of charge to any medical man requiring it for the use of cases in the district.

The County Council employ a bacteriologist, who is prepared to make an examination from any case in the West Riding submitted to him by a Medical Officer of Health or Medical Practitioner.

DIARRHŒA.

The singular freedom from this complaint during the summer was no doubt due to the temperature being so much below the average, and thus milk and other infants' food did not decompose as rapidly as is usual in hot weather. Only one death from diarrhœa was recorded.

PHTHISIS OR CONSUMPTION.

Eight deaths from this cause have occurred. This is about the average number.

Consumption in England is the cause of about 40 per cent. of persons dying between the ages of 20 and 45. The importance of sanitary authorities undertaking measures for the prevention and cure of these cases is now being recognised.

These means adopted at the present time for the cure of phthisis are (1) rest, (2) plenty of good food especially of a fatty nature, (3) abundance of fresh air. These conditions are obviously impossible in the houses of the great majority of the working classes, hence sanatoria for such cases are now being erected in various parts of the country.

As to prevention, the first essential point is to recognise that the disease is infectious. The infection is conveyed by the sputum or phlegm, in which the germs (tubercle bacilli) exist in enormous numbers. As long as this phlegm is moist there is comparatively little danger, but so soon as it dries, the germs are scattered broadcast, and many convey the disease to others by inhalation. The danger of spitting on the floor of railway carriages or other public places is thus manifest. Patients suffering from consumption should either use a spittoon or expectorate into a piece of rag or paper, which can be immediately burnt.

In all probability consumption may also be caused by drinking milk from a tuberculous cow. Although boiling destroys the germs, yet every available means should be taken to prevent tuberculous milk being sold.

The unfortunate point wherein phthisis differs from most of the other infectious diseases is that recovery from one attack affords no protection against a second, but rather renders an individual more susceptible. This no doubt accounts for many of the cases returning from an institution cured, who afterwards die of the disease. What is then considered to have been an imperfect cure being in reality a fresh infection in a susceptible subject.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Plans are being prepared for the erection of a Selby Urban and Rural Joint Isolation Hospital on a proposed site in the Urban District, about two miles to the West of the town.

This has been long required, and had it been available during the last year, there is every reason to believe that many of the cases, both in the Urban and Rural Districts might have been prevented.

It is proposed to have accommodation for twenty patients in two blocks each containing two wards, thus providing for two classes of infectious disease at the same time. In addition to the wards, provision will be made for caretaker, nurses, ambulance, disinfecter, and laundry.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

The houses inhabited by many of the working-class in Selby are satisfactory, but there are still about 70 courts or yards in which something like 1,500 persons live. It is here that most of the sanitary defects are found. During the last five or six years many of these yards have been improved by paving, erection of sanitary conveniences, &c., but a considerable number still remain in their old unsatisfactory and insanitary condition.

For purposes of improvement these latter may be divided into three classes :—

- (1) Those in which the defects can be largely remedied by comparatively small outlay.
- (2) Those in which the defect cannot be remedied except by the demolition of one or more of the houses.

In many large towns this state of affairs is being actively dealt with, and with considerable success. Persons living in these houses are beginning to realize the disadvantage of overcrowding and want of ventilation, consequently in many of these yards a number of the houses are unoccupied.

- (3) Those courts in which although the houses themselves may not be in bad sanitary condition, yet owing to want of light and space around them are not fit for habitation, and cannot reasonably be made so.

This obviously is the most difficult class to deal with, and at the same time the most important. Here there is no alternative but to abandon the premises for dwelling purposes.

In view of our present knowledge of the cause and treatment of consumption, the improvement of the condition under which the working-classes live is one of the most important duties of sanitary authorities.

Care is taken in this district to see that all new buildings are erected in accordance with modern requirements, and especially with sufficient space around them.

WATER SUPPLY.

The present supply is from a bore-hole in the town, the water being pumped from the red sandstone at a depth of 674 feet.

On analysis it is very good for drinking purposes, though a little hard for domestic use.

During the last five or six years the water in the bore-hole has considerably diminished in height, and steps will probably have to be taken shortly to augment the supply.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The removal of excrement is mainly on the water carriage system, although a considerable number of privies and pail closets still remain. Water directly from the mains supplies about one quarter of the total number of closets.

Not only is this unsatisfactory as a means of flushing, but might prove a source of danger in case the water supply were intermittent.

Scavenging is done by the sanitary staff, and the work is much more efficiently carried out than in places where this is performed by contract.

The refuse is deposited in a disused brickyard at East Common.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Although five of these are registered in Selby, only one or two are used as such in the ordinary sense, the others only taking in permanent lodgers. On the whole they are in a clean and wholesome condition, and the regulations imposed upon the keepers are carried out.

COW-SHEDS.

17 cow-sheds are registered in the Urban District.

The structural condition of the majority is satisfactory, although several wooden buildings still remain and require improvement. The air space is sufficient, in almost every case 800 cubic feet per head being allowed.

The lighting and ventilation might be improved in some of the sheds.

Supervision is constantly necessary to prevent accumulations of manure being left for long periods unremoved.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

By the provisions of the Factories and Workshops' Act of 1901 every District Council must keep a register of all workshops and workplaces in their district.

The officers of the District Council have the same power of entry, inspection, and taking legal proceedings, as a Factory Inspector.

The Medical Officer of Health is required in his annual report to the Council to report specifically on the administration of the Act in workshops and workplaces, so far as the matters under the charge of the Council are concerned, and to send a copy of his report on the subject to the Secretary of State.

The report should specially deal with the provisions as to sanitation, bakehouses, and homework.

By this Act important powers of controlling the conditions under which certain classes of work are done in the homes of the workers are given to the District Council.

These powers aim at the prevention of homework being done :—

- (1) In dwellings which are injurious or dangerous to the health of the workers themselves, *e.g.*, through overcrowding, want of ventilation, or other insanitary conditions.
- (2) In premises where there is dangerous infectious disease.

The importance of this, with a view of preventing the spread of certain infectious diseases (notably scarlet fever), the virus of which clings tenaciously to articles of clothing, &c., is at once evident.

The workshops and workplaces in Selby are clean and well ventilated, sufficient light and air space being provided. The sanitary conveniences are satisfactory.

Three bakehouses are registered. They are regularly inspected, and kept in wholesome condition. None of these are underground.

Lists of outworkers have been received during the year. One case infectious disease occurred in the house of one of them, and the necessary precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I should like to thank you for your courtesy during the short time I have acted as your Medical Officer of Health.

My thanks are also due to your Inspector, Mr. Gray, for the assistance he has rendered me both in my work and also in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

BERNARD STEDMAN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER
SANITARY WORK
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

Inspections made	2142
Verbal and written notices from Inspector (not water notices)	278
Notices from Council	21
Do. do. for contravention of Bye-laws ...	11
Notices for waste of water	158
Notices for occupying houses without Certificates ...	1
Do. do. do. from the Council	1
Plans passed for dwellinghouses	14
Do. other buildings	17
Plans disapproved for buildings	6
New Main Sewer made (Flaxley Road)	667 yds.
Number of houses connected with sewers	58
Number of new houses occupied during the year ...	55
Number of new houses connected with town water supply	55
Water Mains laid	45 yds.
Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces registered ...	67
Do. do. do. inspected ...	67
Notices to get Workshops lime-washed	3
Dairies and Cow-sheds on the register and inspected ...	17
Dangerous buildings (notices sent)	8
Canal Boats inspected	51
Notices under the Canal Boats' Act	18
Common Lodging-houses on the register and inspected	5
Slaughter-houses registered	12
Do. repaired	2
Number of loads of refuse removed	1717
Ashpits, privies, etc., cleansed (including 141 box-closets weekly)	11766
Ash Boxes emptied (517 weekly)... ..	23920
Do. number of loads	732
Rooms disinfected... ..	48
Notices to abate smoke nuisances	3
Overcrowding notices sent	7
New spouts for houses	13
W.C.'s provided with flushing cisterns (new houses) ...	50
Do do. (old houses) ...	39

W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	52
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	40
Defective privies and ashpits rebuilt	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C.'s built for old property	...	...	...	...	8
Yards repaired and paved	...	...	...	...	11
Notices to get yards cleaned	...	...	...	...	19
Notices to remove wood erection from back yards	...	...	...	...	5
Old and defective ashpits removed	...	...	...	...	17
Defective drains cleaned and relaid	...	...	...	...	19
Sinks disconnected (old)	...	...	...	...	5
Disconnecting chambers for drains of old property	...	...	...	...	14
Back roads repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Notices sent to improve cowsheds	...	...	...	...	28
Notices to get cowsheds cleaned and limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
Manure pits rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	37

NOTES.

Roman Catholic Schools repaired, rebuilt and extended.

17 sunk ashpits at Alma Terrace filled up.

The lodging-houses are now used almost wholly as boarding-houses with regular lodgers.

Several cowsheds have to be altered this year (1903).

Two flushing tanks have been made for the Volta Street sewer, and have proved of great use in keeping the sewer well cleansed.

We are gradually getting rid of the old-fashioned and unsatisfactory W.C.'s.

The number of closets of various kinds in Selby are as follows, viz. :

Cistern W.C.'s	...	...	829.
Wash out...	...	...	360.
Privies	...	...	225.
Box closets	...	...	130.
Through closets	...	...	6.

BRUCE McG. GRAY, A.M.I.C.E., M. San. Inst.,

Surveyor and Inspector.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years. Name of District, SELBY URBAN.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.		Number	Rate *					
		Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate *							
1895	6200	206	32.2	43	189	124	20.0	18	7	..	117	19.0
1896	6250	188	29.0	34	180	117	18.4	11	3	..	114	18.0
1897	6300	188	30.0	26	138	113	17.9	7	4	..	109	17.3
1898	6500	192	29.3	27	159	125	18.7	10	5	2	122	18.3
1899	7500	228	30.4	53	232	155	20.6	16	11	..	144	19.2
1900	8000	242	30.2	26	107	161	20.0	17	9	1	153	19.1
1901	7786	224	28.7	37	165	125	16.0	10	6	1	120	15.4
Averages for years 1895-1901	6934	210	30.2	35	167	131	18.9	13	6	..	125	18.0
1902	8200	237	28.9	29	122	119	14.5	11	7	1	113	13.8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres	}	Total population at all ages.....	7786
(exclusive of area		Number of inhabited houses.....	1779
covered by water).		Average number of persons per house...	4.5

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

There are no recognised divisions in the town of Selby, therefore Table II is not given.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1902.

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards
Small-pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	5	..	1	3	1	..	..
Membranous Croup							
Erysipelas	4	..	..	1	..	3	..
Scarlet Fever	43	1	10	23	3	6	..
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever	3	..	..	..	2	1	..
Relapsing Fever ..							
Continued Fever ..							
Puerperal Fever ..							
Plague							
Totals	55	1	11	27	6	10	..

Isolation Hospital, none.
Workhouse in the Urban District.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Name of District, SELBY URBAN.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Phthisis	8	..	..	1	3	4	..	..
Other Tubercular } Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant } Disease	5	..	..	..	..	3	2	3
Bronchitis	9	2	2	..	..	2	3	..
Pneumonia	7	..	3	..	1	3	..	1
Pleurisy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs }	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
Venereal Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth ..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents } of Parturition }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	9	..	..	1	..	2	6	..
Accidents	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes ..	50	14	2	3	2	8	21	6
All causes	113	29	10	5	8	28	33	11

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

BERNARD STEDMAN, Medical Officer of Health.